

ABSTRACT  
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**LINEAR LIGHT SOURCE AND IMAGE READING APPARATUS  
INCORPORATING THE SAME**

A linear light source (A) including an insulating substrate (1), a plurality of light emitting elements (3) arranged in columns on the substrate (1), a wiring pattern (2) connected with the light emitting elements (3) and formed on the substrate (1) so as to divide the light emitting elements (3) into a plurality of groups ( $B_1$  to  $B_n$ ), and first and second terminal units (23a, 23b) in continuity with the wiring pattern (2). The plurality of light emitting elements (3) define a plurality of clearances ( $P_1$  to  $P_{2n-1}$ ) between adjacent light emitting elements, the clearances ( $P_1$  to  $P_{2n-1}$ ) being adjusted so as to have different lengths.

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